

**Explanation of Changes Reflected in the Chairman’s
Amendment in the Nature of a Substitute to
H.R. 7986 - The Generalized System of Preferences Reform Act**

April 17, 2024

The Chairman’s amendment in the nature of a substitute includes the following changes to H.R. 7986 - *The Generalized System of Preferences Reform Act* as introduced:

1. Page 4, Line 17: Insert “(I) Such country has failed, in a manner affecting trade or investment—
(i) to effectively enforce its environmental laws or regulations through a sustained or recurring course of action or inaction; or
(ii) to adopt and maintain measures implementing its obligations under common multilateral environmental agreements.”
2. Page 4, Line 17: Strike “(I)” and insert “(J)”
3. Page 4, Line 21: Strike “(I)” and insert “(J)”
4. Page 5, Line 4: Insert “(i) by striking “whether” and all that follows through “afford” and inserting “the extent to which such country is affording”; and (ii)”
5. Page 7, Line 6: Insert “(13) the extent to which such country is effectively enforcing its environmental laws and regulations and adopting and maintaining measures implementing its obligations under common multilateral environmental agreements;”
6. Page 7, Line 6: Insert “(14) the extent to which such country is achieving the goals described in section 3(b) of the Women’s Entrepreneurship and Economic Empowerment Act of 2018 (22 U.S.C. 2151–2(b));”
7. Page 7, Line 6: Strike “(13)” and insert “(15)”
8. Page 7, Line 9: Strike “(14)” and insert “(16)”
9. Page 7, Line 20: Insert “(b) CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.—Section 507 of the Trade Act of 1974 (19 U.S.C. 2467) is amended—
(1) in paragraph (4)—
(A) in subparagraph (D), by striking “;and” and inserting a semicolon;
(B) in subparagraph (E), by striking the period at the end and inserting “; and”; and
(C) by adding at the end the following:
“(F) the elimination of all forms of discrimination with respect to occupation and employment.”; and
(2) by adding at the end the following:
“(7) COMMON MULTILATERAL ENVIRONMENTAL AGREEMENT.—
“(A) IN GENERAL.—The term ‘common multilateral environmental agreement’, for

purposes of determining the eligibility of a country for designation as a beneficiary developing country under this title, means any agreement specified in subparagraph (B) to which both the United States and that country are full parties, including any current or future mutually agreed upon protocols, amendments, annexes, or adjustments to such an agreement.

“(B) AGREEMENTS SPECIFIED.—The agreements specified in this subparagraph are the following:

“(i) The Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora, done at Washington March 3, 1973 (27 UST 1087; TIAS 8249).

“(ii) The Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer, done at Montreal September 16, 1987.

“(iii) The Protocol of 1978 Relating to the International Convention for the Prevention of Pollution from Ships, 1973, done at London February 17, 1978.

“(iv) The Convention on Wetlands of International Importance, Especially as Waterfowl Habitat, done at Ramsar February 2, 1971 (TIAS 11084).

“(v) The Convention on the Conservation of Antarctic Marine Living Resources, done at Canberra May 20, 1980 (33 UST 3476).

“(vi) The International Convention for the Regulation of Whaling, done at Washington December 2, 1946 (62 Stat. 1716).

“(vii) The Convention for the Establishment of an Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission, done at Washington May 31, 1949 (1 UST 230).”.”